



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
March 5, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik (arrived late), Tom Skjaret, Michelle Jerde, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Jerde, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Discussion of T-Mobile Lease for Equipment Located on the City Water Tower

City Administrator Weske explained that T-Mobile would like to add a large array on the water tower; however, upon further review of the details of their proposal, it was found that the current contract does not allow the technology they are proposing. He stated that the City has been working with Community Wireless Consultants who indicated that the proposed equipment expansion warrants a monetary increase for rent. He stated the City has not approved their permitting and is hoping to negotiate a better contract rate before moving forward. Weske indicated staff is seeking direction from the Council for negotiations and a way to move forward with T-Mobile.

The Council discussed the existing contract with T-Mobile, the recent Verizon contract terms, and income for the existing tower and monopole usage.

Weske advised that the City Attorney had communicated with T-Mobile and informed them that the Council would be discussing the lease. He reviewed what he believes are the five options for proceeding with negotiations. He noted that the details of further negotiations will likely be presented at a future closed session. He suggested that the Council consider working with Community Wireless Consultants for assistance in determining market rate based upon the requested improvements and to help with terms of the contract. He noted that another issue that will need to be ironed out in the contract is what will happen when the water tower needs to be painted.

The City Council's conclusion was that the City would like to try to negotiate something similar to what was done with the recent agreement with Verizon, involve Community Wireless Consultants,

attempt to get a signing bonus from the wireless provider, lock in a minimum of a 10 year term on the lease, and address tower maintenance in the agreement.

Update on Fire Service Contract Negotiations with Orono and Medina

Mayor Miner gave a brief update on a recent meeting with Orono and noted that the current fire service contract ends in 2025. He noted that Orono would like to continue with the contract but change some of the terms, referring to a letter the City had received from Orono in May 2018 outlining their positions relating to management of the Fire Department. Orono has indicated they would like to have management of the Fire Department and feel they are paying too much for the services they receive based upon the current formula.

Council member Skjaret stated that he thought the City was planning to review formulas and calculations from other cities to show Orono that the current contract is actually quite favorable. He suggested that the City gather this information and show them what they would be paying if they were under, for example, Wayzata's formula.

Weske stated that he is planning to put together a spreadsheet that gives those specific examples. He noted that if a city is creating 80% of the calls, they will still pay 80% of the cost.

Council member Skjaret stated that he thinks the model of a volunteer Fire Department may need to be looked at because he doesn't think a paid volunteer department is sustainable in the long term.

The Council discussed the financial implications of having a duty crew versus a volunteer work force and possible grant monies that may be available to transition to a hybrid system.

Mayor Miner reviewed the separate meeting that took place with Medina.

The City Council's conclusion was that they did not want Orono to take over running of the Fire Department and to direct City Administrator Weske and Mayor Miner to take the lead in negotiating new contracts with Orono and Medina, with examples of alternative formula calculations to be considered in negotiations.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the work session meeting by general consent at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator